NOTE VIII.

A NEW NOVACULA-SPEC. FROM THE BALABALONGAN OR LITTLE PATERNOSTER ISLES

BY

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In a collection of fishes, in Jan. '94 presented to the Leyden Museum by the Lieutenant of arms J. v. Stockum, and collected in the Strait of Makassar, Balabalongan or Little Paternoster Isles, I found a species of the genus *Novacula* C. V., which, after examination, seems to me to be new for science. Dr. A. Günther, whom I asked to look for in the collections of the British Museum, confirmed me in my opinion and wrote me: »I have no doubt »your specimen of *Novacula* belongs to a species un»known to me".

In honour of the collector I call this new species

Novacula Stockumii.

Diagnosis: D. $2^{7}/_{12}$, A. $^{3}/_{12}$, P. 11, V. $^{1}/_{4}$.

Cheeks scaly; the two first dorsal spines are flexible, somewhat longer than the following, the interspace between the second and third spine greater than that between the remaining ones. The outer ventral ray produced; caudal rounded.

Colours (in spirits): body pale yellow-brown with a rosy tint; eye deep red; on the praeoperculum and above the origine of the pectoral fin two short, somewhat faded bluish streaks; on the side of the body, partly covered by the pectoral fin a yellow (in live perhaps red) blotch; the basis of the dorsal fin yellowish, very narrow black

lines run from here, principally in the foremost part, along the outer margin of the scales to the lateral line; dorsal fin with oblique dark coloured lines, anal with oblique and transverse bluish — , caudal with remainders of dark coloured transverse ones. Especially distinctive is *a well defined black blotch between the two last dorsal rays.*

Length of the type-specimen 16.5 Cm.

Finally I will mention an indistinctly bordered black blotch on the left side of the body, a little above the anal fin, which is not to be found on the right.

According to this diagnosis *N. Stockumii* belongs to Günther's group E (see Catal. of Fishes, Vol. IV, p. 177): »Cheek scaly; the two anterior dorsal spines form a more »or less separate division".

Leyden Museum, March 1894.